

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 1-9, 11-16, and 19-32 will be pending, claims 1, 12, 14, 16, and 24 being independent.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 24-32 are allowed.

Claims 10, 12-15, and 18 are allowable, but are objected to for depending from rejected claims.

Claims 2-6, 11, 16, 17, and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable.

Response to the Office Action

In the amendment above, Applicants have placed the instant application in condition for allowance by means of the following: (1) independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of allowable claim 10; (2) claim 7 has been amended by changing its dependency from claim 11 to claim 14, thereby providing antecedent bases for the expressions mentioned in the §112 rejection; (3) each of independent claims 12 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form; (4) independent claim 16 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of allowable claim 18 and that of intervening claim 17; (5) claims 10, 17, and 18 have been canceled in view of the incorporation of their subject matter in other claims; and (6) the dependency of claim 19 has been changed from claim 17 to claim 16, in view of the cancellation of claim 17.

In view of the amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are kindly requested.

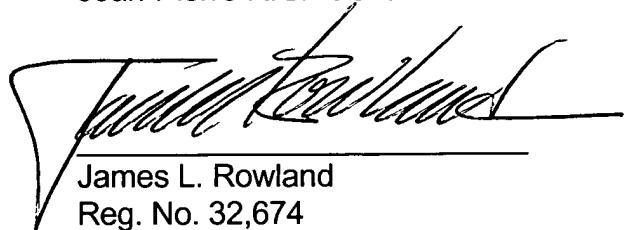
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The instant application has been placed in condition for allowance by the amendment above by ensuring that each independent claim includes allowable subject matter. In addition, the indefiniteness rejection has been overcome with the amendment of claim 7. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the amendment.

A check is enclosed for payment of a claim fee, a fee for an extension of time, and a fee for a Notice of Appeal. In addition, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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